

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

JOINT APPLICATION OF NISOURCE INC., )  
NEW NISOURCE INC., COLUMBIA ENERGY ) CASE NO. 2000-129  
GROUP AND COLUMBIA GAS OF )  
KENTUCKY FOR APPROVAL OF A MERGER )

O R D E R

The Commission, having extensively reviewed the application for approval of merger and the supporting testimony, hereby finds that additional testimony should be filed by the Chief Executive Officers (“CEOs”) of NiSource Inc. (“NiSource”) and Columbia Energy Group (“Columbia Energy”) on, but not limited to, the issues of merger benefits, ratepayer benefits, quantification of merger savings, and specific proposals to share merger benefits and savings with ratepayers.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the CEO of NiSource and the CEO of Columbia Energy shall each file within 10 days of the date of this Order prepared direct testimony on the issues discussed in the findings above.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2000.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director